

**Abstract of the disclosure:**

A method for managing and monitoring the operation of several distributed hardware and/or software systems that are integrated into at least one communications network. A central programming element, which is stored in a data processing device, processes system-related data that are contained in the data processing device or that have been received by the device via a communications network. The programming element then autonomously derives operation-related decisions from the data and, based on the decisions, generates decision-specific control data to influence the operation of one or more hardware and/or software systems. The element subsequently transmits the control data to data processing devices that are assigned to the respective hardware and/or software systems.